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simplicity and clearness by a proper attention to the laws of hydrostatics, particularly in the mode in which they act in closing up the track of the vessel, and to the manner in which motion is lost by its necessary communication from the vessel to the water: which the writer hopes to have an opportunity to demonstrate on some future occasion; having a memoir on the subject nearly ready for publication, when it can bedone to advantage.

The quicker progress of the lower part of a stream or river, than the surface (though it does not operate so much as the causes stated, in occasioning loaded vessels, of a greater draft of water, to move quicker down the current than empty ones) yet

it certainly must have some effect on them; and the observations of the bargemen, which relate to this circumstance, are not so void of foundation as Mr. Orr supposes. For in a river (which is resisted in its progress, by the roughness of the banks and of the bottom, and by the pressure of the air at its surface) there must be some part towards its center, most remote from these resistances, which moves quicker than the rest; and the nearer the bottom of the barge approaches to that central part, by being more deeply laden, it is clear that the greater must be the impulse which it will receive, from the superior velocity with which this part of the stream advances.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

WE have frequently adverted to the glaring mismanagement of that hostile spirit which lately appeared in Spain against the French, either for the purpose of injuring the enemy, or ameliorating the condition of a most degraded and ill-governed people. The opportunity so unexpectedly occurring, appeared to men of all parties the best that could happen for effecting the former purpose, while many liberal and enlightened persons hailed it with rapture, as giving promise of emancipation from that ignominious servitude in which the natives of this fine country had been held for ages. An able and virtuous statesman with this powerful engine, would have accomplished both, and erected a monument for himself in the hearts of millions; but it soon became evident that the system actually followed by our ministry would lead to results equally disgraceful and disastrous to the assisters and the assisted. The last act of this tragedy is now drawing to a conclusion; and after having co-operated with a foolish or knavish junta in executing imbecile plans totally inadequate to the ostensible purpose, we are now on the eve of deserting the Peninsula, and leaving the *universal Spanish* and

Portuguese nations to swell the triumph, and exalt the triumph of Napoleon and Joseph.

The last accounts state the French to be advancing uninterruptedly through all parts of the country, and that the junta having fled from Seville—which the French entered on the 30th January—and part of them arrived at Cadiz, had appointed a council of regency consisting of five members, and immediately dissolved themselves. Cadiz, the only place in Spain *likely* to stop the progress of the French arms, was at that time in a most critical situation, having only a thousand regular troops, and the fortifications quite unfinished; and had not the duke of Albuquerque arrived unexpectedly with 8000 men, it must have fallen almost without opposition.

When the drowning weight of Spain and Portugal has been forced off our shoulders, we trust, if the war must still continue, that it will be carried on by other means and another spirit than it has been hitherto. We need no longer expect effectual aid in its prosecution from any existing government: we have tried them all and found them wanting. The deficiency could not arise from

want of sufficient will and inclination; they fought to perpetuate a system by which they thrive, and may therefore be supposed to have put forth all their energies in its defence; but we have seen that, rather than interest the people in their quarrel, rather than risk those emoluments drawn from the people's industry by raising them from the debasement of slaves, they would compromise their own and their country's honour, and bow their heads beneath a foreign yoke. As the British constitution need not shrink from a comparison with the freest in the world, what is the cause that in our intercourse with other nations the introduction of the topic of liberty or popular freedom into the discussions relating to mutual defence, seems to be dreaded as something highly pestilential and dangerous? Is it because we have experienced the bad effects of this freedom at home, or that our *delicacy* prevents us from interfering in the domestic arrangements of our neighbours? We leave these questions with our readers: but we will venture to say, that, until we get the better of an apparently selfish and illiberal spirit intent only on monopolizing the advantages we enjoy, and embrace the manly policy of inviting the nations, our allies, or within the possibility of becoming such, to participate in the blessings of a free and *well administered* constitution, we shall never be able to counteract the overwhelming influence of France, nor establish our own safety on an impregnable and enduring foundation.

A parliamentary inquiry is at present going on at the bar of the house of Commons respecting the calamitous and unsuccessful expedition to the Scheldt. It is premature on the present stage to speculate on the probable result, but as one of the most prominent effects attending this inquiry, we shall notice the enforcing of the standing order to shut the gallery of the house of commons during the examination of the witnesses. By this measure the reporters who attend on the part of the proprietors of the London newspapers are precluded from detailing the evidence to the

public, who can now only receive it as printed by order of the house of Commons, without knowing by whom the inquiry is conducted, or what part each member takes in this important transaction. This measure of excluding strangers coupled with the speeches of some of the members, shows a systematic plan to curtail the liberty of the Press, and to sap its independence. Such part of the press as cannot be purchased, is to be put down: as far as it is not venal, it is to be controuled. It is of great importance to observe that in this systematic attack on the Press, two men, Yorke and Windham have coalesced. They may be considered as the representatives of the parties to which they respectively belong. The one shows the secret views of the ministry, and the other discovers how little will be effected towards promoting the public good, by a change of men without a radical change of measures. Windham and his colleagues, if in power, would be as likely to manacle the press as their political opponents. When we hear Lord Grenville speak of "the great statesman now no more," we perceive in intelligible language an inclination to revive the leading politics of Pitt, and are alarmed by the avowal of the intention. An attentive observer of the history of Pitt's first administration, from seeing the name of Grenville so often closely linked with the obnoxious measures of Pitt, will fear that the taint then received, will long continue to operate on the conduct of his survivor, and for so long a time his firm coadjutor. Lord Grenville's letter to the Earl of Fingal occasions further suspicions. It looks like a politic measure to facilitate his return to office. "*Nulla fronti fides*," is a necessary political axiom. Little dependence can indeed be placed on professions. Besides we find the party of Lord Grenville are generally for war. They only differ from their opponents in the mode of carrying it on. We fear that many of their distinctions would be without a difference, and their measures would prove equally unsuccessful as those of their opponents. During their administration Constantinople was wantonly at-

tacked, a measure scarcely less unjust than the attack of their successors on Copenhagen.

We are pleased to see our countryman, Sheridan, come forward on this occasion as the advocate for the liberty of the press. He was reproached for staying away, when questions between the *political strugglers* for places were at issue. The people have a better right to complain of his conduct on the investigation of last year, and that on questions of far more importance to them than mere trials of the strength of parties, as when parliamentary reform of which he was formerly an advocate, was agitated, he was ingloriously silent. But without scrutinizing his motives too closely, let us praise where we can, and applaud him for his exertions in favour of liberty on the present occasion. In one part of his speech he rose with his subject, and in animated terms proclaimed the advantages of the PRESS to the cause of liberty, in a manner highly creditable to him, and which the future historians of these times will record with approbation, when his frailties and many of the temporary politics of the day will be forgotten.

"Give me," said Mr. Sheridan, in a tone of peculiar animation, "give me but the liberty of the press, and I will give to the minister a venal house of peers—I will give him a corrupt and servile house of commons—I will give him the full swing of the patronage of office—I will give him the whole host of ministerial influence—I will give him all the power that place can confer upon him, to purchase up submission and overawe resistance, and yet, armed with the liberty of the press, I will go forth to meet him undismayed; I will attack the mighty fabric he has reared with that mightier engine; I will shake down from its height, corruption, and bury it beneath the ruins of the abuses it was meant to shelter."

Montagu Burgoyne whose address we gave in the last retrospect, has lost his election for Essex. In a subsequent address, during the progress of the election, he acknowledges that he held a sinecure place of £1300 a year, of which he had been in pos-

session since his infancy, but in case of his election he promised to move for the abolition of sinecure places. and in case he did not succeed in the general plan, to give up the sinecure, which he himself held. But his opponent carried his election, because there was not sufficient independence in the electors to countenance the novelty of returning a member free of expense, a plan, which would at once tend to prevent a candidate from losing his independence and ruining his private fortune by the expenses of a contested election, and secure his gratitude and attachment to his constituents. All ranks require to be renewed to a spirit of independence, electors and representatives equally standing in need of a renovated and higher toned system. "All things are venal," is a reproach equally applicable to the present day, as descriptive of Rome in ancient time.

Luxury and an attempt to live above honest, virtuous means are destructive of independence; if a man live above his income, be it large or small, he is no longer independent. His desires lead him to something not yet in his possession, and to obtain it, and to enlarge the means of gratifying his wishes for show, increased expenses, or some other favourite object, he barter his independence. It in the middle rank of life, he has sons or connections to provide for, in the church, or the army, or the revenue, or in some of the many offices, with which government gratify their dependents. If the votary of luxury is of higher rank, and appears among the hereditary or elected legislators, higher places are the objects of his pursuit. He attends the levees of the ministers of the day, or of him who wishes or expects to be minister in his turn, he is occasionally a guest at his table, and votes obsequiously at his beck. So did not the virtuous Andrew Marvell, in the dissipated days of Charles II. When Lord Danby was sent by the King to tempt his honour, he virtuously refused, and still remained the *incorruptible patriot*.

The following interesting account of this uncommon interview, is thus

lately given in a contemporary print, from which we select.

"His Lordship with some difficulty found his elevated retreat, which was in the second floor, in a court in the Strand. Lord Danby, from the darkness of the stair case, and the narrowness thereof, abruptly burst open the door, and suddenly entered the room, wherein he found Mr. Marvell writing. Astonished at the sight of so noble and so unexpected a visitor, he asked his Lordship with a smile, if he had not mistook his way? "No, replied my Lord, with a bow, not since I have found Mr. Marvell, continuing, that he came with a message from the King, who wished to do him some signal service, to testify his high opinion of his merits.—He replied with his usual pleasantry, that Kings had it not in their power to serve him; he had no void left aching in his breast: but becoming more serious, he assured his Lordship that he was highly sensible of this mark of his Majesty's affection, but he knew too well the nature of courts, to accept of favours which were expected to bind a man in the chains of their interest, which his spirit of freedom and independence would not suffer him to embrace.—To take a place at the hands of his Majesty, would be proving him guilty of the first sin; ingratitude, if he voted against him; and if he went in the smooth stream of his interest, he might be doing injustice to his country, and his conscience; he therefore begged that his Majesty would allow him to enjoy a state of liberty, and to esteem him more his faithful and dutiful subject, and more in the true interest of his welfare, by the refusal of his munificence, than if he had embraced his royal bounty.—These royal offers proving vain, Lord Danby began to assure him, that the King had ordered him a thousand guineas, which he hoped he would be pleased to receive, till he could bring his mind to accept something better, and more durable. At this Mr. Marvell renewed his usual smile, and said; "Surely, my good Lord, you do not mean to treat me ludicrously, by these munificent offers which seem to interpret a poverty on my part.

Pray, my Lord Treasurer, do these apartments wear in the least, the air of need? And as for my living, that is plentiful and good, which you shall have from the mouth of the servant:

"Pray, what had I to dinner, yesterday?"

"A shoulder of mutton, sir."

"And what do you allow me to-day?"

"The remainder hashed"

"And to-morrow, my Lord Danby I shall have the sweet blade-bone broiled, and when your Lordship makes honourable mention of my cook and diet, I am sure his Majesty will be too tender in future, to attempt to bribe a man with golden apples, who lives so well on the viands of his native country!"

The Lord Treasurer unable to withstand this, withdrew with smiles, and Mr. Marvell, sent to his bookseller for the loan of one guinea.—No Roman virtue ever surpassed this temperance, nor can gold bribe any man that is not bribed with luxury."

Profligate as was the state of morals in the days of this merry, unprincipled King, and his flagitious courtiers, we have a noble instance of political virtue in this anecdote. An instance seldom imitated, and alas! too rare among the statesmen in the reign of George III. The virtuous poverty of Andrew Marvell, confers true honour, and his mutton bone is a badge of more honourable distinction than Kings have in their power to bestow. How diminutive are stars, and garters, ribbons and titles, in comparison of the reward which virtue has in store, for the honest and independent man.

"For peace, sweet virtue, peace is all thy own."

The inhabitants of Westminster have held a meeting and published strong resolutions in favour of parliamentary reform. They likewise voted addresses to the King, and the house of commons. We insert the resolutions, and petitions among the documents, as well to direct the attention of our readers to them at present, as that they may serve as an honourable record to posterity of the proceedings of the present day. Whether any immediate good

effects are produced, or not, we trust such attempts will prove as a seed, which in future time will produce good fruit.

"For by the eye of God hath virtue sworn,
"That one good deed was never wrought
in vain."

IRELAND.

Our country as well as the empire at large is agitated at the unexpected turn attempted to be given to the Catholic question by transferring the power of a Veto on the nomination of Catholic Bishops from the Pope to the King. We are heartily desirous that the Catholics would, according to the ancient maxims of their church, assert the independence of nominating their own bishops, for according to their canons, and former practice, the Pope has no right to interfere in the nomination, the right, prior to the reformation in these countries being vested in the chapters to elect without any control. Such being the former practice, why should it not again be resorted to? Thus the objection of foreign interference might be obviated, without encroaching the overgrown power of the crown, which in the present state of things, we think is of far more danger to the country and to the constitution, than the fears of a superannuated spiritual power, though vested in a foreigner. Unequivocal and decided friends as we are to emancipation, we would prefer to see it delayed for a time, certain that it must eventually be conceded at no very distant period, rather than it should now take place coupled with an increase to the power of the crown. The effects of the Regium Donum granted to the ministers of another church shows the influence of the interference of government. In case of the concession of the Veto, a Catholic clergyman may incline to manifest an obsequious disposition, lest a contrary conduct should afterwards operate to his disadvantage in the event of his election to the episcopacy. The circumstances which have occurred, since the famous resolution of the house of commons in 1782, all conspire to render the declaration still more applicable to the present time, "the power of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished."

A masquerade was lately given by

the Lord Mayor of Dublin. We should not notice such an affair in our pages, if it were not to point out the pernicious system in Ireland of calling in the military on every occasion. Armed dragoon paraded the streets on horseback, and committed many outrages on the people, whose curiosity, certainly not of a highly criminal nature, led them to stop the carriages for the purpose of inspecting the dresses of the masks. This circumstance among many others, proves that we enjoy less practical liberty than our English fellow subjects. No attempt was made to quell the row at Covent garden theatre, by an armed force. They proceeded no farther than the display of constables and police magistrates, and preserved the forms of law. But in Dublin a military force was called in to repress a little harmless curiosity.

We are pleased to see William Richardson, esq. M.P. for the county of Armagh, contradicting that he had voted against inquiry into the expedition to the Scheldt. Such instances of subordination of a Member of Parliament to his constituents is very proper, and agreeable to the best principles of the representative system.

Our Readers are requested to correct an error in our last Retrospect, at page 63, 2d col. 37th line, and insert Bubb Doddington, Lord Melcombe, as the name of the supple courtier, instead of Donnington.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ENGLISH CATHOLIC MEETING.

In calling the attention of the people of England to the following most temperate and seasonable resolutions of the English Catholic body, we are sure that we shall gratify all the sound, liberal, and enlightened part of our readers. They will see in these resolutions the spirit of pure and loyal attachment to his majesty's throne and government, mixed with the most mild assertion of their claim to an equal participation in the blessings of the British constitution.

Nothing can be more simple than the nature of their application, nor any thing more obviously sincere, than the prayer of the petition they mean to present, for feeling the weight of religious scruples